HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section *Printed in Two Sections*

The Symbol of Korea: The blood-soaked little peninsula on the coast of Asia scarcely attracts any notice today, yet it looms pre-eminent, as a symbol, in the minds of the political planners in the White House. For these Eisenhower Administration directors of policy recall with tenderness an historic utterance of Candidate Eisenhower in the campaign of 1952 which, they believe, did more than anything else to win that election. Ike startled a not-too-exciting campaign atmosphere by promising, if elected, to go to Korea and see what he could do to bring about peace.

Thus, the symbol of what Ike said about Korea, as an example of how to win friends and elections, fascinates the Palace Guard. That group, which runs the Administration and will run the campaign, have for some time been very privately seeking another "symbol of Korea," a parallel tactic calculated to cinch the election. No one, of course, around the White House will admit it, but the members of the Palace Guard are by no means as supremely confident in private as they appear in public, about the outcome of the campaign battle. The figures in the public opinion polls are pleasant reading, but the White House aides are not entirely sold on those pollsters. They have their own private investigation and intelligence reports, and the latter, it is said, suggests a much keener and more closely matched struggle than is reflected in the publicly confident assertions of Mr. Len Hall.

Now — the planners believe they have an idea which, sprung during the fall campaign, would ensure a majority for the GOP in the electoral college. Because of his illness, Ike has as yet been unable to talk about the matter with aides. However, the plan has been rather widely discussed in the Executive Offices, and, presumably, will soon leak out to Congress and the press. Here follow the essential outlines of the scheme:

The President would announce suddenly that, in the interests of world peace, he would fly to Moscow to confer with the Soviet leaders—including, of course, his old friend Marshal Zhukov. (Noticeably, last week, the President asked General Twining to convey his best regards to the Soviet Marshal.) Such a sensational gesture, it is felt by members of the President's entourage, would appeal widely and profoundly to the American electorate, and would give an irresistible momentum to the campaign band wagon. After that, the expected deluge of GOP votes on November 6th.

(It should be reported that not all political advisers of the President agree to the feasibility of the plan. Some recall that Truman, in his 1948 re-election campaign, planned to do something similar: to send Chief Justice Vinson to Moscow "in the interests of peace." Secretary of State Marshall and other aides, who entertained lively apprehensions as to the popular repercussions, blocked the plan.)

Not Merely Gossip: Twenty-one GOP Governors, at the Atlantic City convention of state governors, this week petitioned Ike to run, but pointedly did not include Nixon's name in the resolution. In the Capital, it is understood that anti-Nixon elements in the Administration reportedly urged the Governors not to include the Vice-President in the petition. This report confirms last week's exclusive story in HUMAN EVENTS describing plans of some of the Palace Guard to ditch Nixon, as Vice-Presidential candidate, in favor of Sherman Adams.

● This Capital is a bit blasé about tough talk from politicos in this election year. But almost everyone was startled by the attack on Chief Justice Earl Warren by Senators Eastland and McCarthy on June 26. "I'm not accusing him of being a party member," Eastland said of Warren, "but he takes the same position they [the Communists] do when he says the Communist party is

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just another political party." And the Senator from Wisconsin added: "In their [the Communists'] book Earl Warren is a hero. I don't accuse him of being a Communist, but there is something radically wrong with him. . . . The Court has sunk to a new low since Warren took over." A sign of the times, such language about a Supreme Court Justice. . . .

● HUMAN EVENTS scored a scoop on the appearance of Donovan's *Eisenhower — The Inside Story*, forecasted by an item in this news section on May 5. Capitol Hill curbstone opinion on the volume is that the White House aides, when they opened up the secret cabinet files to the reporter, did no good service to the GOP in this very political election year. Revelations in the book open the old sore of the McCarthy-Army controversy and show the White House in no light which will help the party in this year's contest. Democratic Senators, finding it a mine of propaganda material for their side, like it very much.

● Talk these days turns to the approaching Democratic convention (the only one offering prospect of real news, with the GOP show all set for a sure Eisenhower renomination). Sam Rayburn, Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, is refreshingly frank in denying that the Democratic show will be long and drawn out ("like 1924"). He says, "We just can't afford it. We haven't got the money to pay rent too long in the Hotel Stevens. So we've arranged it all to be over in four days, by Thursday night at the latest."

● The increase of about $1 billion (earmarked for construction of B-52's) was spurred by the news — which has had a doleful effect on the Capital — that the "oust America" coalition of parties in Iceland had won the general election there, early this week. If we cannot have the use of a forward base in Iceland, berthing medium bombers, then we must have more B-52's or long-range bombers as a "deterrent" to Soviet aggression — such was the reaction in the Senate cloakrooms. Also, another similar piece of unpleasant news had reached the attention of Capitol Hill. Constantine Brown, foreign affairs analyst of the Washington *Star* reported on June 21 that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Shepilov, during his recent trip to Egypt, had made a secret deal with Cairo, "whereby the Soviet Union had obtained a foothold on the Suez Canal." Brown added, "The Soviet's present military policy is to deny to the U. S. air bases which could be used for retaliation. Moscow expects that before long, thanks to its close relations with Egypt, our bases in Morocco and even in Libya may be closed or rendered untenable from the security point of view."

Fund Fantasy: The Fund for the Republic, set up with a $15 million grant from the Ford Foundation, presently is being investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee to determine the merit of charges that its basic aim is to discredit all personnel security programs and regulations of the Communist movement. (See article, "Fund for Which Republic," in September 24, 1955, HUMAN EVENTS.)

This week, the Fund itself gives new impetus to the widespread criticisms of it by publishing a report on alleged "blacklisting" in the entertainment industry. It represented findings of a 21-month study under a $127,000 grant from the Fund, directed by John Cogley, former editor of the liberal Catholic lay magazine, *The Commonweal*. It was highly critical of efforts of the motion picture and TV-radio industry to rid themselves of Communist elements.

GOP Senator Karl Mundt of South Dakota, normally a placid, calm individual who specializes in assuaging ruffled feelings, viewed this one in a different vein. Taking the Senate floor, he termed the Fund "the ugly duckling hatched from an egg laid by the Ford Foundation," which he said is attempting "to discredit those who are engaged in trying to free Americans from the danger of the Communist menace."

"So I am disturbed no end," Mundt added, "when I read that still another effort [the blacklisting report] is being made today by the Fund for the Republic to give aid and comfort to the Communists, both in this country and abroad."

Harsh words but merited, is the Washington consensus.

The report lists several individuals whom it says specialize in compiling organizational affiliation records of entertainment figures; and, in words heavily larded with innuendo, it in effect says three newsmen have set themselves up as a sort of clear-

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ance house to pass on entertainers trying to get back in good public grace — columnist George Sokolsky, recently blinded labor columnist Victor Riesel, and Scripps-Howard Communist expert Frederick Woltman.

Woltman, picking the report to pieces at length, denies several statements about him, and says of the report, "By the use of loaded expressions throughout and the selection and grouping of some facts and the omission of more salient facts, it gives a distorted and often false picture."

The report glosses over or omits mention of attempted left-wing pressure to kill off sponsorships of conservative commentators, and to keep roles away from outspokenly anti-Communist entertainers such as actor Adolphe Menjou.

Education Front: The Federal Aid to Education Bill, presently under consideration by Congress, significantly took a healthy drubbing in a round-table discussion during this week's Governors' Conference at Atlantic City.

Criticism of the measure came from Democrats and Republicans alike. GOP Gov. William Stratton of Illinois viewed as an "insult" the $6 million he said his state would get under the bill, as compared with the $300 million it now spends annually on schools.

Democratic Gov. Frank Lausche of Ohio declared that Federal aid inevitably will lead to Federal control, adding: "With control of the purse will come control of the curriculum." Democratic Governors Alan Shivers of Texas, George Bell Timmerman of South Carolina and James P. Coleman of Mississippi voiced the same fears.

Several others joined in the attacks. Only defense of the Federal aid thesis came from "liberal" Democrats such as Governors Orville Freeman of Minnesota and Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. In the final outcome, the Governors' Conference declined to endorse the program of President Eisenhower's White House Conference on Education.

The Federal aid bill undoubtedly wil be boosted strongly during the annual convention of the National Education Association which meets in Portland, Oregon, from Sunday, July 1, through Friday, July 6. The NEA is the ringleader, along with the usual coterie of other "liberal" organizations, in the perennial campaign to siphon Federal funds into local school systems.

Hells Canyon: The Council of State Chambers of Commerce, whose economic reports have earned a high reputation for accuracy, this week delivered a severe judgment on the Hells Canyon dam project in Idaho, which the Democratic leadership seems bent on forcing through Congress this session. The report of the Council, with a wealth of statistical evidence, concludes that the project is unnecessary because the power potential of the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake river already is in the process of development by private enterprise.

The Federal Power Commission last year licensed the Idaho Power Company, a private concern, to build three hydro projects on the Snake river. "There is," the reports remark, "very little difference in the power producing capacity of the company's three dams and the proposed single Federal dam. The dependable capacity of the former will be 767,000 kilowatts as compared to 785,000 kilowatts for the Federal dam. The Federal project, however, would cost a quarter billion dollars more than the three dam project."

Backers of the Federal dam, says the report, "open themselves to the charge of taking money from taxpayers of all the states for an unnecessary purpose." The Council's report shows what the dam will cost each state based on their respective shares of the Federal tax burden. Those states which will benefit from the dam — Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon — would pay about $17 million of the burden as their share. By contrast, a survey of the figures for Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin, which would benefit not at all, would pay close to $100 million of the cost. The estimate of the cost of the dam runs near to half-a-billion dollars.

Boondoggle: The Democratic leadership in Congress this session has sought to put over a number of raids on the taxpayer's purse. Among these, a bill for creation of something to be called the Area Redevelopment Administration was passed by the House Banking and Currency Committee. The author is Representative Brent Spence (D., Ky.) who has long and often served the New Deal Democrats as a convenient pusher of socialistic, economic planning projects.

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Spence's new Federal giveaway agency would be empowered to make loans and outright grants for industrial redevelopment of areas where employment has become a problem. What this means is that a sort of new RFC would — in this period of high business prosperity — step in and seek to shore up drooping business in the few depressed areas. Representative Edgar W. Hiestand (R., Calif.), who is strongly opposing the Spence bill, puts it this way, "In other words, when a section of the country fails to meet the challenge of modern industrial competition, the bill would require the Federal Government to step in and bolster the area's economy with taxpayer's money."

What's the size of this check? The Banking Committee authorized an annual $50 million for making grants — just as a starter. In addition, the measure would set up a revolving fund of $250 million for Government loans to urban and rural areas. Hiestand puts it, "If you operate a successful taxpaying business, in other words, your money would be 'loaned' to potential competitors in other sections of the country. They, in turn, could drive you out of business with your own money."

Letter from DAVID W. HOWE, *Editor*, Burlington (Vt.) *Free Press*; past President of the American Newspaper Publishers Association: "Each issue of HUMAN EVENTS is read promptly and thoroughly soon after it reaches my desk. Your staff has great capacity for digging out the fundamentals on public subjects that are not receiving sufficient thought or attention."

Conservative Revolt in Britain: Conservative middle-class voters in Britain are rebelling against the "me-too-ism" of the Conservative Government of Anthony Eden — a fact which has not escaped political observers in Washington. The latter are inclined to compare this phenomenon abroad with similar trends in the U.S. in elections and by-elections since the Eisenhower Administration took power in 1953. In a recent by-election in England, some 9,000 Conservatives stayed away from the polls, reports the *New York Times* (June 26).

Also a right-wing organization, the Peoples League in Defense of Freedom, has been attracting much support. The League is anti-statist, fights high taxation (recalling the Poujadist movement across the Channel) and wants to curb the power of trade-unions. Another interesting feature of the conservative revolt is the protest against manufacturers who give in to union demands for wage increases and then pass on the increases to consumers. The five-year-old rule of the Conservative Party, with its "liberal" and "pseudo socialism," has apparently disillusioned this body of voters.

Book Event: The appearance of *The Case for Right-to-Work Laws*, by the Rev. Edward A. Keller, is a major book event for two reasons: (1) The author, a distinguished professor of economics at Notre Dame University, who has a wide reputation among economists throughout the academic world, offers a useful and comprehensive statement of the arguments and rebuttals for the right-to-work laws which ban compulsory unionism in some 17 states. (2) The author is a Catholic priest, well known among clergy and laity alike. In the book he disposes of various arguments of an ecclesiastical nature often brought against these laws. His stand on this issue, made explicit in the book, goes far to remove the erroneous impression widely publicized that the Catholic Church leaders are opposed to this legislation. (*The Case for Right-to-Work Laws:* A Defense of Voluntary Unionism, by Rev. Edward A. Keller, C.S.C.; published by the Heritage Foundation, Inc., 75 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill. Price per Copy, $1.50).

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The Declaration of Independence opens: "When in the course of HUMAN EVENTS . . ."

FRANK C. HANIGHEN, *Editor and Publisher* JAMES L. WICK, *Executive Publisher*

Contributing Editors: FRANK CHODOROV, WILLIS J. BALLINGER

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Article Section

GIVE 'EM HELL HARRY

This is a chapter from E. L. Dayton's new book *Give 'Em Hell Harry* — an informal biography of the "Terrible Tempered Mr. T."

The book — priced at $3.50 — is published by Devin-Adair, 23 East 26th Street, New York 10, N. Y.

This is the second book on Harry Truman recommended by HUMAN EVENTS, the other being *The Truman Scandals* by Jules Abels.

Missouri Mules and Missouri Men

"WHEN Harry S. Truman was catapulted into the office of President of the United States by the death of his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in April, 1945, he was a humble, meek and mild man who fully realized the need of any holder of that office for both divine and human help," wrote Washington Correspondent Fulton Lewis, Jr., in September, 1955.

"No one would describe the Harry S. Truman with a few years of experience as President under his belt — that is, in the latter stages of his eight-year tenure — as either humble, or mild, or meek.

One of the strange phenomena about Harry Truman is that people have been getting this impression of him for more than two generations. They look at his bespectacled, apparently calm, exterior and are surprised at the signs of the smoldering volcano underneath. Astonishment is expressed over and over again at every eruption.

As a matter of fact, if Harry Truman was not born with a cocksure attitude about everything on God's green earth from the poetry of Homer to Kansas hawgs, he determined at a very early age that "he was right and anyone who disagreed with him was wrong." This trait can be tracked across almost every page of his current Memoirs and has indeed colored his entire life.

When Harry S. was born in Lamar, Missouri, on May 8, 1884, his father John went out and nailed a mule shoe over the door. Now, in the light of subsequent events, this might seem like a symbolic gesture. Boss "Tom" Pendergast, Biographer "Bill" Helm and others who know Harry best all speak of his "contrariness," and the public has seen many instances of his "give 'em hell" attitude, not only toward politicians, but toward music critics, financiers and newspaper columnists who happened to cross his will.

His father, John Truman, was a practical man who made no pretense of possessing the gift of second sight, and proud in the knowledge of a firstborn male, he nailed up a mule shoe for two reasons, and two reasons only. One, he was a mule trader, and two, he considered 1884 his lucky year because he had won $75 on the election of Grover Cleveland, a miracle that would never have come to pass if a preacher named Dr. S. D. Burchard had not damned the Democrats as the party of "Rum,

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Romanism and Rebellion." It was the case of a give 'em hell speech working in reverse.

John Truman was a small man but no stranger to fisticuffs. Once a lawyer who had him in the witness box said, "Come, John, you know that's a damn lie."

The response from the witness was a leap out of the witness chair. Frightened, the lawyer turned and fled the courtroom with John Truman in hot pursuit.

That he carried with him the courage of his convictions, there cannot be the slightest doubt, for often on Election Day he came home with the marks of violence on his person.

On the distaff side, Harry's mother had seen the Federal "Redlegs" storm in from Kansas and slaughter her father's hogs. All her days the elder Mrs. Truman remained a Southern Democrat, so fiercely partisan that her friends fondly called her "The Old Rebel." When her son became the occupant of the White House, she stoutly declared she would sleep on the floor rather than occupy the bed "that Yankee Abraham Lincoln had slept in."

As a youngster, Harry's path was not as openly pugnacious as his parents' had been. First of all he was so very nearsighted that he started wearing glasses before he was nine. And second, even though he could be contrary, he liked to talk a good fight rather than resort to violence.

Nor was he an outstanding student, although he read somewhat more than the average farm boy for the simple reason that his myopia handicapped him in the neighborhood games of baseball and shinny.

When he was in high school young Harry earned his first money as a soda jerk in Independence. Later, for six months, he wrapped newspapers for the *Kansas City Star*. Rejected as a candidate for West Point, because of his eyes, he got a job as a timekeeper for a construction crew on the Santa Fe Railroad.

It was from the rough, dirty neck gandy-dancers that young Truman learned the choice profanity that was to be his chief weapon in telling off people. The collected profanity of the Middle Border, it has been remarked, are the vulgarities "brought in by the mule men, the cattle men, the corn and oil men, the Missouri River boatmen, the houn' dog Southerners, and the muscular-minded Irish."

It was to serve Harry in good stead.

He was keeping books in the Union National Bank of Kansas City, when, at 22, he had to go to work on his Grandfather Young's farm at Grandview. There he won the envy of his neighbors as a hog-caller, as an expert at sticking cows for clover bloat and in the practice of castrating pigs.

They had a saying in those parts, "When Harry sharpens his knife the pigs run out to pasture."

In those early days before World War I, he had a taste of politics, although it was hardly long enough to turn over on his tongue. He succeeded his father as overseer of roads on the elder Truman's death. But he was not on the job very many weeks before his anger was aroused. His could not be described as a slow, seething anger. It boiled up and over, and quickly put out the fire.

No one has recorded too much about the nature of the disagreement that cost him his first political post. It has been said that Jackson County commissioners felt he was making too many improvements for the length of the taxpayers' purse, and Truman was determined to go on spending county money as he saw fit. Something had to give, and young Truman was not only too expensive a luxury for the commissioners, he was also expendable.

Out of work, young Harry found a champion in Congressman William P. Borland, who appointed him postmaster at Grandview at a salary of $50 a month. He hired

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Ella Hall as his assistant and let her run the office while he went on plowing the straightest furrows in Jackson County on his Grandfather Young's farm.

Meanwhile the red running flames of war were licking across the map of Europe. As a bank clerk in Kansas City, Truman had joined the National Guard. That June 14, 1905, when a battery of light field artillery was formed, became a red letter day in Harry's life because the associations he was to make would in later life lay the foundation for his political strength.

There was one amusing incident in connection with his military career. Once, in his artillery blues, he strode into his Grandmother Young's sitting room. Her face grew stern at the sight of him. Her eyes became stone. Her lips flattened against her store teeth.

She had not forgotten the days of the Middle Border when Jim Lane's guerrilla band "came down like the wolf on the fold," and pillaged her home before her eyes.

She gave the blues one withering look and said, "A uniform of that color hasn't been in this house since the Civil War. Don't bring it back!"

Right after the United States entered the European war on April 6, 1917, Harry was made a first lieutenant, in Battery B of the Missouri National Guard, and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for further training. Afterwards, at Camp Doniphan, he entered into partnership with Eddie Jacobson, a Kansas City shirt salesman, to run the regimental canteen. It was one of the very few successful business ventures of Truman's life, netting $15,000 on an original investment of $2,200.

As a lieutenant, he was picked to go overseas for advance training, and it was as a captain that on July 11, 1918, he took command of Battery D, 129th Artillery.

Captain Truman took his battery through the St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Somme-dieu-Verdun campaigns. Then came the Armistice and the welcome trip home.

IN THE army Harry had cultivated three cronies who were to become lifelong associates and exercise great influence on his career. There was, first of all, Eddie Jacobson, with whom he had cleaned up $15,000 in the regimental canteen. That experience of dealing with captive customers left them with delusions of grandeur. They decided to set up a haberdashery business in Kansas City, at 104 West 12th Street, across the street from the Muehlebach. Two trips to the well was one too many. On the second they put a $28,000 crack in the pitcher, which some folks say was never completely mended.

At Camp Doniphan, Truman had also met two others who were to become lifelong friends. One was 2nd Lieutenant Harry Hawkins Vaughan, who would later become his secretary, and finally his military aide and chief recipient of five percenter favors; the other, 2nd Lieutenant James Pendergast, son of Mike and nephew of Tom, who would become his political patrons in the order of their seniority.

To return to the business failure, there has been a wide divergence of opinion about the debt that resulted from the collapse. "In the end," Frank McNaughton and Walter Hehmeyer write in their biography, "Truman repaid every dime that he owed—more than $20,000." Truman says that he "lost about $28,000 in the business." According to Roosevelt's Press Secretary, Jonathan Daniels, "Across the years he settled such claims on the basis of the best settlement he could get, but they hung heavy on him even after he was Senator, more than a decade later."

So the discussion went on. As late as April 10, 1949, in an article by Sunday Editor Lester Markel portraying the then Presi-

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dent as the "ruggedly honest little man who once went broke or bankrupt, then labored all his life to pay off the debt," the *New York Times* said: "Truman paid off in full the last remaining debt resulting from that bankruptcy."

THIS account sent William Bradford Huie, then Editor of the *American Mercury,* into a veritable tizzy. He quoted direct from Kansas City affidavits a charge that "as a person Harry Truman is a liar and a deadbeat, and as a willing tool of Tom Pendergast . . . the enemy of every decent citizen in the community."

Huie declared flatly that Truman was a financial as well as a political bankrupt, that he owned no property, kept no bank account and drew a Federal salary that was not garnishable.

An unidentified Kansas City banker was quoted as saying: "He either kept his money in his pocket or in Old Tom's safe."

Huie went into detail about a $35,000 loan which Truman managed to float when he was Senator in 1938. The Pendergast Gang, Huie said, had its own RFC — the school fund of Jackson County.

He quoted the late Mayor Roger Sermon, the man who used to raise Truman's campaign funds.

"It was administered by the county court, and if you had the right political recommendations, you could borrow money from it," was the Sermon version. "But you had to come highly recommended."

Truman got his loan of $35,000 on his mother's farm, according to Huie; the county finally had to foreclose the mortgage, and, "on the bitterest day of her life, he allowed her to be dispossessed and sent to the little house in Grandview where she died."

The main concern in this study is not which variation is nearest the truth, but what was Truman's reaction when a marked copy of the *American Mercury* swam into his ken. A correspondent close to the White House reported that he almost exploded when he read that Huie had tagged him as "a liar and a deadbeat."

That the blowup was long and loud there can be no doubt, and the White House staff must have taken the precaution of removing pen and ink from the Presidential reach, as knives and letter-openers were quietly taken from Abraham Lincoln's presence when he was plunged in deepest melancholia. Had it been otherwise, considering the decibel count of Truman's tantrum, history might have had an s.o.b. and beak-busting letter topping the note to Music Critic Hume and the speech on Columnist Drew Pearson.

Huie took passing note of the eruption in the August, 1951, issue of the *Mercury,* stating in part: ". . . the Truman water boys activated at least sixteen Government lawyers who began flying around at Lord knows how much Government expense; and our telephone lines in both Maryland and New York suddenly had enough taps on them to give us stage fright, were we not accustomed to addressing large audiences."

Obviously, Truman never trampled deeper in the vintage than he did that day.

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